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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Coast, Tides, and Currents,

I N

BUTTON'S BAY,

And in the *WELCOME*:

BEING

The North-West Coast of HUDSON'S BAY,
from *Churchill* River, in $58^{\circ} 56'$ North Latitude, to *Wager* River or Strait, in $65^{\circ} 24'$, taken from *Scrog's*, *Crow's*, *Napier's*, and *Smith's* Journals, made in the Years 1722, 1737, 1740, 1742, 1743, and 1744.

ALSO,

From the DISCOVERIES made in 1742, in the Voyage in the FURNACE BOMB, and DISCOVERY PINK, commanded by Captain MIDDLETON and Captain MOOR; shewing from these Journals, a Probability, that there is a Passage from thence to the Western Ocean of AMERICA.

L O N D O N.

Printed for J. ROBINSON, at the *Golden Lion* in *Ludgate-street*.



A
DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Coast, Tides, and Currents,

I N

BUTTON'S BAY, &c.

BSKIMAUX Point, on the West Side of the Entrance of *Churchill River*, by Captain *Smith's* Journals, is in Latitude 59° . West Longitude from *London* 94° . but by Captain *Middleton's* Observation, is in 95° West Longitude from *London*. There a W. N. W. Moon makes High-water, which is at $7^h 30'$ at Change and Full Moon. The main Land to Northward is a Low Land; to Westward of this River is a large Bay, which runs into the Southward, several Miles wide and deep. The Variation here is about 20° West, or one Point and $\frac{1}{2}$ West. There is a small River in $59^{\circ} 26'$, called by the Natives *Porothinkisco* River, from thence

to 60° , the Coast continues straight and low, lying N. by E. true Course. Here the River of *Seals* enters the Sea, being the most northerly River known upon that Coast; it comes some hundred Leagues from the South-westward, according to Monsieur *Jermie's* Account, when the *French* were possessed of *Fort Bourbon*, now *York Fort*, on *Nelson* or *Hoye's* River, according to the Account given to him by the *Indians*.

By this River many of the Northern *Indians* bring their Furs and Peltry to *Churchill* Factory in small Canoes.

Near this River, in about 60° , is a Ridge or Reef of Stone, which runs into the Sea three Leagues, bare at Low-Water, which is dangerous, and must be carefully avoided. The Coast, North of this River, is barren, and without Wood. *Scrogs* sent his *Indians* ashore thereabouts, to look for a fine Copper Mine, which the *Indians* go frequently to, in order to get Copper for Ornaments to their Wives, which they sometimes brought to the Factory, and said it was upon the Sea-shore Northwest of *Churchill*; but they found no Signs of it near that Latitude. Here are many Seals, and many Sea-Horses or Morfes, whilst the Ice continues, which the *Indians* kill for their Ivory and Oyl.

The Coast from the River of *Seals* to *Cape Eskimaux*, in $61^{\circ} 26'$, is mostly low, with some round Hills near the Coast; which continues to lie from North by East to South by West. *Cape Eskimaux* is about $0^{\circ} 48'$ Longitude East of *Churchill*. This Coast, so far, is known to be Part of the Continent of *America*.

To the Southward of this Cape, Captain *Smith*, in July 1744, found a fine Bay or Inlet, which he called *Knapp's Bay*; it was Landlock'd all around, except two Points of the Compass, with Land and Shoals

(5)
Shoals dry at half Tide; the Cape bore from the Bay East half South, the Eastermost Point he called *Sutter's Point*. He sailed into this Bay the 8th of July, 1744, in his Sloop, three Leagues; he had never less in the Mid-channel than ten Fathom Water, and had four Fathom near the dry Beach on each Side; it continued two Miles wide as far as he went, and the same Depth, having gone several Leagues higher in his Boat, and found the Course continue W. S. W. as far as he could see from the Boat. The Water was clear and Salt, having no Symptom of its being a Fresh-water River; here he caught several Salmon; he found no Current or Tide setting in, or out, altho' it flow'd ten Feet each Tide: Here a West Moon made High-water, that is six o'Clock at Full and Change; the Variation here is two Points and $\frac{1}{4}$ West, or about 25°.

Cape *Eskimaux* had been accounted Part of the Main Land, but when *Smith* went into this Bay or Inlet, he found it was made up of several Islands, he seeing two or three Channels running to Northward, which discontinued it from the West Land.

From his Observation of the Tide's rising ten Feet, and yet no Tide setting in or out of the Bay or Inlet, it must have a Passage some other Way, to raise so high a Tide, which must consequently come thro' these Channels to Northward, or some other from the Westward, behind Cape *Eskimaux*: which is a Proof of its being a broken Coast to Northward, and no Part of the Continent. This is further confirmed by the Tide's still flowing later, the further it goes Southerly into *Hudson's Bay*; for at *Whale-Cove* in 62° 30', a W. S. W. Moon makes High Water at 4^h 30', at Full and Change; at Cape *Eskimaux*, in 61° 26', a West Moon, at six o'Clock; at *Churchill* in 59° a W. N. W. Moon at 7^h 30'; and at *Port Nelson* in 57° a North West Moon

Moon at nine o'Clock. The Current of Flood sets also Southwardly along all that Coast, there being only a small Current of Ebb, that sets Easterly $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile from the Shore. All other Observations also confirm its being a broken Coast to North-ward, there being no High Lands seen to Westward, nothing but Bays or Inlets, and low Islands, nor are there any Trees or Shrubs seen along the Coast, or any Sign of a fresh Water River. To the Northward of this, as far as *Wager Strait*, great Numbers of true black Whales are annually seen, and caught by the *Eskimaux Indians*, tho' none are seen in *Hudsen's Bay*, or *Strait*: The Company sending every Year a Sloop to *Whale-Cove* to trade with the *Indians* for Whale-finn and Oyl: The *Eskimaux Indians* also fishing, and frequenting this Coast from *Cape Eskimaux* every Summer, confirms its being all Islands; for they never dare land on the Main, for fear of their inveterate Enemies the Northern *Indians*; who by their Use of Fire-Arms constantly defeat them, if they meet them on the Main; but for want of Boats can't follow them to the Islands.

The Coast from *Cape Eskimaux* to 62° runs northerly, with some rising Hills near the Coast. At four or five Miles Distance from the Coast is a small Isle, called *Centry-Isle*, lying in $61^{\circ} 36'$. North-east of it in $61^{\circ} 58'$ is another small Isle called *Knights Island*, $1^{\circ} 6'$ long. East from *Churchill*. North-west from that Isle, at three or four Miles Distance, is *Sir Biby's-Island*, about three Leagues long from North to South, and a League broad; here the *Eskimaux Indians* have frequently a Quantity of Whale-finn, Oil, and Ivory. Five Leagues East of this is a small Island called *Merry's Isle*, and a League North-east of it *Jone's Isle*, a small Island; and five Leagues N. E. of it, *Sea-Horse Isle*, in $62^{\circ} 10'$ Lat. and $2^{\circ} 30'$ Long. East from *Churchill*.

Among

Among these Islands there is no true Judgment to be made of the setting of the Tide, by Reason of the Eddy Tides; only in general, that the Tide of Flood sets to Southward along the Coast. Here Captain *Smith* found a Current, which set him twenty Miles to Southward of his Reckoning. Among these Islands *Scrogs* saw several Whales, and Captain *Smith* saw four Whales to Northward of them, and one to Southward. The supposed Main Land, North of *Cape Eskimaux*, is at least five Leagues West of *Sir Biby's Island*. Captain *Smith* in sailing ten Miles West of this Island, had seventeen Canoes came on board him with Oil, and returned to an Island they lived in four Miles West of the Place he anchor'd in. This he called *Hope-Bay*, from the Expectation he had that a good Trade might be found thro' it to the Westward; for North West of it he saw no Land, but expected an Inlet there.

Whale-Cove (so called, as given out, from a Whale's having carried one of the Company's Sloops to Sea, by its Tail getting foul of the Anchor and Cable; to which Place every Year, since, the Company sends a Sloop to trade with the *Eskimaux* for Whale-finn and Oil) is an Island situated in $62^{\circ} 26'. 1^{\circ} 21'$ Lon. East from *Churchill*, 37 Miles N. N. E. $\frac{3}{4}$ East from *Knight's Island*; the Cove or Harbour is on the W. S. W. Side of the Island, and lies in E. N. E. there is a small Island West of the Cove, the best Entrance is on the South Side of it. The Cove is three hundred Yards long, and two hundred wide, five or six Fathom clean Ground. The Isle is barren and rocky, with Moss and some Grass. On the East Side of the Island is a lesser Island, with a narrow but deep Channel betwixt them, about two hundred Yards wide, thro' which the Tide flows from the Northward. On these Islands are many Rain-Deer. Four or five Miles S. W. of *Whale-Cove* is a small

a small Island called *Mistake-Isle*, and north of that two Leagues another, called *Eskimaux Isle*. The Variation here is 33° , or three Points West. West of these is a large Bay or Opening. From the Rocks above *Whale-Cove* Captain *Smith* could see nothing to Westward but small low Islands and broken Land. He had thirty-seven Canoes on board him at one Time with Finn and Oil. They generally returned to the Westward or South-westward, and some to North-westward. They have usually but one Person in a Boat, which is made like a *Greenland* Boat, with a Hole in the Middle, in which they put their Legs and lower Part of their Body, and tie the Skin which covers the Boat round their Middle, so that no Water can enter if they should overset; and the Boat being shap'd like a Shuttle, they will paddle as fast as a Pinnace with six Oars. When they carry their Families from Island to Island, they lash many of these together in a Float, and paddle on the Outside of each Float.

Captain *Smith* sailed some Miles to Westward of *Whale-Cove*, but saw no Land to North-westward. The *Indians* by Signs let him know, that if he would go with them to Westward, he would get a much better Trade, and would have had him send his Boat with them; but he durst not trust his Boat from his Sloop, and would not venture his Sloop among unknown Islands, contrary to his Instructions, from the Company, who permitted him to go no farther than *Whale-Cove*, nor to stay there above a Fortnight; and therefore allow'd him no more Provisions than for his limited Time; and upon his Return, when he applied for Liberty to trade further Westward, by which he would improve their Trade, instead of encouraging him, they ask'd him if he wanted to make Discoveries, and look'd coldly on him for desiring it.

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The *Indians*, when they left him at *Whale-Cove*, told him they would go to bring more Trade, and would stay away three Nights; but they did not return in that Time, and he could wait no longer for them.

To the Northward of *Whale-Cove* Island is another large Bay or Opening, called by *Scrogs* *Pistol-Bay*. This Bay is South-west of *Marble-Island*, where Captain *Middleton* watered his Ships upon their Return from *Wager-Strait*, from whence he proceeded for *England*. It is situated in 63° N. Lat. $0^{\circ} 20'$ East of *Churchill*, by Captain *Middleton's* Journal. *Pistol-Bay* is in $62^{\circ} 40'$, and about $1^{\circ} 40'$ Long. East from *Churchill*, which is about seventeen Leagues Westward of *Marble-Island*; so that this Bay was certainly the Opening observed by Lieutenant *Rankin*, from the High Lands in *Marble-Island*; and he desired Captain *Middleton* would let him go to discover it, which the Captain refused, and immediately set sail for *England* on the fifteenth of *August*.

Crow and *Napier* sent one of their Boats to Northward into *Pistol-Bay* in 1737, when they were in *Whale-Cove*, to look out for a Harbour in Case they sailed that Way. When they had got to ten Miles Distance from the West Point of *Pistol-Bay*, W. N. W. which, Variation allowed, is West by South from it, they came to an Island which was low and sandy, with some Grass upon it; and four Miles farther West, to another Island small and rocky, but found no Harbour, which they were directed to look for; nor do they mention any other Land, or Ice, to obstruct their going farther, tho' they pretended they were kept in *Whale-Cove* by the Ice.

Scrogs endeavouring to make this Bay upon his Return from *Whale-bone* Point in 1722, after stop-

ping at *Marble-Island*, had Soundings from fifty to seventy Fathoms, in $62^{\circ} 34' N.$ Lat. and $2^{\circ} 35'$ East Long. from *Churchill*, and then saw a Cape he called *Cape Fair-way*, four Leagues North-West of him. It was thro' this Bay or Inlet that *Vaughan* and *Barlow* expected to find the Passage in the *Albany*, in 1720, when they obliged the Company, tho' very unwillingly, to allow them to attempt it; but as one or both their Ships were lost, or surprized by the *Indians* hereabouts, either in going out, or upon their Return, in Wintering, and no Person on Board having ever since been heard of, it can't be known whether one or both were lost, or whether before or after making any Discovery. But *Scrogs* having seen some broken Masts and floating Rigging hereabouts in 1722, when he was sent to know what was become of them, and after his Return from the *Welcome* to *Marble-Island* having seen there several Yards split into Tent-Poles, and Tents covered with Sails, and a Copper Pot, and the *Indians* having there so much Iron, that they would trade with them for no Iron, but Sword-Blades, it seems evident that one Ship was lost, or surprized by the Natives, and is also a strong Presumption that they expected to find the Passage by this Inlet.

These Islands near *Whale Cove* are what Captain *Fox*, upon his Voyage, called *Brigg's Mathematics*, a Number of low Islands which he saw in sailing Southerly, from *Brook Cobham* or *Marble Island*, where he says he found the Tide had left him, and began to follow him down the Bay. Here he was satisfied he lost the Passage, but was obliged to follow his Instructions, which was to search down all the West Side of the Bay.

There is but an imperfect Account given of the Coast, from *Pistol-Bay* to *Marble-Island*. *Scrogs* only

only saw one Head-land North West of him, which he called *Cape Fair-Way*; so that it appears to be broken Land or Openings and Islands betwixt that Bay and the Island, which is about seven Leagues long, from East to West. On the South Side there is a fine Cove, a small Island lying before it, which breaks off all Winds from its Entrance. It is three Fathom deep at the Entrance, and fifteen to twenty Fathom within, being land-lock'd from all Winds. The Tide of Flood came here from the Westward, and a West Moon made High-water. *Strogs* called a Hill upon this Island *Pits Mount*, and the East Point *Whalebone Bluff*. There are many Deer upon this Island. It is about three Leagues from the broken Land to the Westward, or Opening which *Rankin* saw. Hereabouts *Strogs* saw many black Whales, and traded with the *Indians* for green Bone just taken. It lies exactly in 63° . North of this is a Headland in $63^{\circ} 20'$, near which Captain *Middleton*, in his Return from *Wager Strait*, and *Repulse Bay*, upon standing in close to the Headland, saw several large black Whales; and Captain *Fox*, much about the same Place, saw many black Whales, forty sleeping together, as his Boat rowed ashore.

North East of this, in $63^{\circ} 35'$, and $5^{\circ} 4'$ East Long. from *Churchill*, *Strogs* made Land, and found the Current set several Ways among the Islands, North of *Pistol-Bay*. He calls it the Main, but says, from the Number of little craggy Islands a Mile from the Shore, he could not get near enough to discover the Coast. Here he found some small shattered Ice on the 8th of *July*. He next Day fell in with the South-east Side of the *Welcome*, in $64^{\circ} 10'$, saw fourteen small Isles on that Coast, which he called *Kelly's Desires*, and high firm Land behind them. This is the Main Land

30 fl.
 North of *Cary's Swan's Nest*. After four Days beating, he fell in with *Whalebone Point*, in $64^{\circ} 56'$ — $9^{\circ} 6'$ East of *Churchill*. There he saw many black Whales, and several Islands North-west of him, and a Head-land made up of Islands South-west of him, which he called *Cape Fullerton*, in about $64^{\circ} 10'$; but to Westward saw no Land. Here it flowed upon his Lead Line, when at Anchor, five Fathoms. He staid there three Days, from the 9th to the 12th, sent Mr. *Norton* ashore in his Boat, who from the High Lands saw an open Sea to Southward of the West. He sailed on the 12th, and on the 14th the Tide of Flood forced him close to the East Shore, which is a Proof that the Tide flowed there from the Westward.

This West Coast, from *Marble-Island* to *Whalebone Point*, was never looked into by Captain *Middleton* in his Voyage from *Churchill*. When he got near *Cape Fullerton*, in about 64° , he fell in with shattered Ice, near the Coast, and drove to Eastward, until he got in with the East Coast, seeing no Land on the West Coast, until he came near *Cape Dobbs*, in $65^{\circ} 10'$, which Cape was to North East of *Whalebone Point*; and seeing an Opening North West of it, he sailed into it, only with a View of sheltering his Ships, until the Ice was dissolved, intending again to sail North Eastward, not once designing to look into any Place for a Passage to the Westward. When he got into this Strait, which he said was a fresh Water River, though from six or seven Miles wide at Entrance, and fourteen Fathoms Depth, in which was a great deal of Ice, forced in by the Easterly Winds, he found it increase after he had gone twelve or fourteen Leagues into it, North Westward, to ten or twelve Leagues wide, and at least seventy Fathoms deep, having no Ground with a Line of sixty-eight Fathom,

Fathom, where it was entirely free from Ice, and Salt-Water, and many black Whales were seen at that Height within it, and yet none seen below or without the Strait, the Water continuing Salt even thirty Leagues up the Strait, and a large open Channel, at least five or six Leagues wide, as far as could be seen to South-westward from a very high Mountain, for near twenty Leagues W. S. W. with broken Lands on each Side, with a Tide of Flood coming from the Westward: Yet this he would impose upon the Public for a fresh Water River, and what was seen from the Mountain was only fresh Water Lakes, with Water-falls or Cataracts falling from it into the River where the Ships lay, because a Ripling was seen betwixt an Island and a low Point through which the Tide had a rapid Course; yet all beyond these Islands, where the Channel was five or six Leagues wide, was upon a Level, and united with the Strait in which the Ships lay; yet upon this Discovery's being made, and reported to him under the Hands of the Lieutenant and Master, he, without consulting his Officers, sailed out of this River, and went away North-easterly to look for the Passage, until he was embayed in *Repulse Bay* in $66^{\circ} 40'$, and then went ashore, and gave out that he saw a Strait, close frozen over from Side to Side, five or six Leagues wide, and eighteen Leagues long, running South-east into *Hudson's Strait*; yet this he was obliged to make his Passage for the Whales and Tide to flow through, which raised all the Tides on the West Side of the Bay; he having allowed that no Whales came in through *Hudson's Strait*, or were seen in other Parts of the Bay, all that were seen being only amongst the Inlets and Islands on the North-west Side, from 62° , near *Cape Eskimaux*, to $65^{\circ} 40'$ in *Wager Strait*.

When

When he returned from his pretended Frozen Strait, which was only a small Channel three Leagues wide, surrounding the Island he was upon, he kept at a Distance from the Bays or Inlets South of *Wager Strait*, scarcely seeing the Tops of the Mountains at a great Distance; for he only stood in at the Head-lands of *Cape Fullerton* in $64^{\circ}.10'$ and near *Brook Cobham* in $63^{\circ}.20'$, where he saw the Whales, not being able to distinguish whether the Bays between them were Inlets or Islands, or Part of the Main, and then anchored at *Marble Island* in 63° . where he watered his Ships, and proceeded for *England* the 15th of *August*, never once trying the Tides at his going out or Return, except incorrectly when at Anchor in *Savage Cove*, in *Wager Strait*, and very slightly when he was ashore at his Frozen Strait, having been only forty-five Days upon his Discovery; of which Time he was about twenty-eight Days at Anchor in *Wager Strait* and *Marble Island*, only seventeen being employed in the Discovery; his whole Course and Discovery being to North-east, except when he was forced into *Wager Strait*. However, he could not well avoid knowing the Tide; for three Weeks and upwards he was at Anchor in *Wager Strait*, and found, that both at the Entrance and as high up as *Deer Sound*, twelve or fourteen Leagues within the Strait, a West Moon made high Water, and that it flowed there fourteen or sixteen Feet; tho' those who were on board said it was taken very incorrectly, for they had Reason to believe it flowed much more at *Deer Sound*, by their Observation ashore: This was made by setting up a Pole fifteen Feet long, at low Water Mark, supported by a Heap of Stones; at high Water the Pole was covered, how far above it they could not tell, nor did they wait until next Tide to get the Pole.

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The Whales came in to *Deer Sound* every Tide from the Westward with the Flood, and returned with the Ebb to the Westward. There were several Openings seen on the South-west Side of the *Strait*, which were never look'd into, so that the West Side seemed to be only broken Lands and Islands; but no Openings were seen on the North-east Side, except *Deer Sound*, which only went up two Leagues, the *Indians* they had on board having travelled round it on Foot; there was also below it a fine large Cove, or Harbour, capable of containing a Fleet of Ships.

Captain *Smith*, in sailing from *Churchill* to *Whale Cove* in four Voyages, in 1740, 1742, 1743, and 1744, set out about the First of *July* in each Year. He found some Ice betwixt *Churchill* and *Cape Eskimaux*; but from thence to *Whale Cove* he, neither in going out or returning, saw any Ice to obstruct his Sailing, it being always drove to the Eastward from that Coast into the great Bay, by a strong Current setting from the North-west Shore, which, with an equal westerly Wind, drives it more to South-eastward in twenty-four Hours, than an easterly Wind can force it back again in forty-eight Hours; by which Means the Bay to Southward is full of Ice, when there is none on the North-west Side of the Bay.

This Current from the West also sets the Ice to Eastward thro' *Hudson's Strait*, which causes so much Ice being at the East Entrance of the *Strait*, in the Beginning of *July*, when at the same Time the West End is tolerably clear of Ice; and this Current, with the Ice from *Davy's Strait*, is the Cause of so many Islands of Ice being seen so far as the Banks of *Newfoundland* in 44°.

Scrogs sailed the 22d of *June*, 1742, from *Churchill*, to know what was become of the *Albany*, and the

the other Vessel that sail'd with *Vaughan* and *Barlow*, upon the Discovery, in 1720. He saw shatter'd Ice to Eastward of him, with Sea-Horses lying upon it, until he came near *Merry Sound* in about 62° , where he arriv'd the Twentieth-sixth; there he anchored, and traded with the Natives, until the first of *July*; the Ice driving in by the Easterly Winds to the Islands near it. He sail'd thence the first of *July*, and saw some shatter'd Ice Eastward of *Pistol Bay* on the second: From thence to *Whalebone Point* in $64^{\circ} 55'$, where he anchored, he saw no Ice, but a little shatter'd Ice in $63^{\circ} 35'$, tho' he beat several Days backward and forward in the *Welcome*; nor any Ice from thence upon his Return to *Churchill*, where he arriv'd the latter End of *July*.

Crow and *Napier*, who sail'd from *Churchill* the Beginning of *July* 1737, upon a pretended Discovery, by Orders from the Company, (they having been for some Years importuned by Mr. *Dobbs*, to send a Sloop to *Whalebone Point*, in 65° , where *Scrogs* had found so great a Tide, and saw an Opening to Westward, in Order to observe that Tide, and to try the Opening, with full Instructions given to the Company for his Conduct upon the Voyage) instead of attempting any Discovery, they went out late in the Summer, sail'd no farther than *Whale Cove* in $62^{\circ} 36'$, seventy Leagues from *Churchil*, where they traded with the *Indians*. They were limited by the Company, not to stay longer out than the 24th of *July*; and were instructed by them not to go farther than $63^{\circ} 20'$, as appears by their Journal; consequently were not capable, or designed, to make any Discovery. They were ten or twelve Days in sailing to *Whale Cove*, complaining of much Ice in the Offing, or to Eastward, and near *Sir Byby's Island*; by the 15th they got
got

got to *Pistol Bay*, and sailed into *Whale Cove* that Night, where they traded with the *Indians* for Finn and Oyl, until the 27th, pretending they could not get out for Ice, tho' it did not prevent the *Indians* coming to them in their Canoes, and in the mean Time they sent their own *Boat* into *Pistol Bay* to look for a Harbour, but found no Harbour, nor saw any Land except two small Islands four or five Leagues Westward of *Pistol Bay*, and don't mention any Ice being seen by them in their Passage there.

Napier kill'd himself by drinking Brandy, and *Crow*, in his Journal, says, that having no more Trade, the *Indians* being gone, he proposed to have gone to $63^{\circ} 20'$, but it being then the 27th, and they being limited by the Company to stay no longer out than the 24th of *July*, he returned to *Cburchil*; and thus ended the Company's Expedition, for a Discovery of a Passage to the Western Ocean. Yet Sir *Byby Lake*, in his Letter by Order of the Company to Mr. *Dobbs*, magnifies this as a great and dangerous Attempt and Voyage, saying, the Sloop had gone out early in the Summer, and stay'd out until the latter End of *August*, and in all that Time could make no Discovery, nor saw any Sign of a Passage; that they had lost a Governor (*Napier*) in the Voyage, and the Boldest of their North-westerners were afraid of sailing to the Northward; but they carefully avoided sending a Copy of the Journal, which they were at last obliged to produce, by Order of the Committee of the House of Commons.

May not then the Account they give in their Journal, of so much Ice seen in their Passage to *Whale Cove* (which was no more than shatter'd sailing Ice, not capable of obstructing their Passage) so contrary to Captain *Smith's* four Journals,

to *Scrag's Journal*, and *Fox's*, and *Button's*, upon their first Discovery of that Coast, and contrary to *Middleton's Journal*, who saw no Ice, but a very little to Eastward when he left *Churchil*, upon his going out, until he got to $64^{\circ} 20'$ in the *Welcome*; may not this Account, I say, from *Crow* and *Napier*, be much magnified by them, to please the Company, by intimidating others from attempting to find the Passage. From this Abstract of their Journal it is evident, that under a meer Shew of sending them upon the Discovery, they order'd them to sail only to *Whale Cove*, and trade with the *Indians*, and to return in three Weeks; so that every intimidating Account, they knew, would please the Company.

From all these forementioned Journals it seems evident, that from the Inlet near Cape *Eskimaux* in $61^{\circ} 20'$, to *Wager Strait* in $65^{\circ} 24'$, it is all broken Lands and Islands, and this is confirmed by several other concurring Circumstances. The Rising of the Tide ten Feet in the Inlet South of Cape *Eskimaux*, when no Current set into or out of that Inlet, together with its Saltness, Depth, and Clearness of the Water, is a Proof that the Tide there flow'd thro' the Inlets seen to the Northward of that Inlet. The great Opening and Islands seen in *Hope Bay*, South West of *Whale Cove*, the large Opening North-West of it, and Northward in *Pistol-Bay*, there being no Land seen from *Whale-Cove* to *Marble-Island*, except one Head-Land, called *Cape Fair-Way*, the great Bay between the Head-Land, North of *Marble-Island* in $63^{\circ} 20'$, and *Cape Fullerton* in $64^{\circ} 10'$, which Cape is made up of Islands, the great Opening between that Cape and *Whalebone Point* in $64^{\circ} 55'$, as well as *Wager Strait*, are confirmed by the several Journals;

nals; so that whole Tract is nothing but Islands and Inlets. The Tide and Current and Courle of the Flood is a great confirmative Proof, not only of its being a broken Coast, but also that it communicates with another Ocean. For all Tides in Inlets, Bays, or Straits, are caused by the Influx of Waters from some Ocean; and the further such Coasts or Bays are distant from the Ocean, so much later the Tide is still in flowing. The Method Mariners in their Journals take, of shewing the Earliness or Lateness of the Tide, is from the Moon's Southing, by the Points of the Compass; and also by the Hour it is high Water at the full and new Moon; therefore as the Moon goes in its Diurnal Rotation from the North to the South by the East, and from the South to the North by the West, so the Moon's Place from the Meridian pointed out by the Compass, a Tide flowing later as it goes farther from the Ocean, is described thus, Flood or high Water by a South Moon, S S W. S W. W S W. W. W N W. &c. For the Moon in going from South to West is still later in coming to those several Points in its Diurnal Rotation, and in going towards an Ocean, where you meet the Tide in the Reverse; as from West to W S W. S W. S S W. South, and so on towards the East; so that sailing in a Strait, Bay, or Inlet, it is easily known whether they are sailing towards or from an Ocean by their finding high Water earlier or later, by the Moon's Place, when it is high Water. This is also described by the Hour of high Water at new and full Moon, for a South Moon makes high Water at twelve o'Clock, S S W. at 1^h 30', S W. at 3^h, W S W. at 4^h 30', and a West Moon at 6^h.

Thus

Thus in going thro' *Hudson's Strait* to the Bay, at the East Entrance, from our Ocean, an E S E. Moon makes high Water at 7^h 30', farther in the Strait, a S E. Moon at 9^h farther a S S E. Moon at 10^h 30', and at *Cape Diggs*, where they enter the Bay, a South Moon at 12 o'Clock. If therefore this Eastern Tide continued to flow and raise the Tide at the West and North-west Side of the Bay, as that Coast is nearly at an equal Distance from *Cape Diggs*, where the Tide enters the Bay, it therefore should be high Water much at the same Time at *Port Nelson*, in 57°, *Churchill River* in 59°, *Cape Eskimaux* in 61° 26', and *Whale Cove* in 62° 26', and so on to *Marble-Island* and *Wager-Strait*; and the Tide should set into and from the Coast by an East and West Current. But if at the same Time that an Eastern Tide from our Ocean flows into the Eastern Part of *Hudson's Bay*, and raises the Tide there, a Tide from a Western Ocean should, thro' a Strait or broken Lands, flow into the West Side of the Bay, and raise a Tide there, for by a Parity of Reasoning, the Tide of Flood should not be at the same Time in different Parts of the Bay, but should be earlier or later according as the Places are nearer or farther from the Opening thro' which the Tide flows from the Ocean.

It is therefore evident, from the several Journals taken from *Fox*, *Scrogs*, *Smith* and *Middleton*, that at *Whale-Cove*, in 62° 26', a W S W. Moon makes high Water at 4^h 30', at *Cape Eskimaux*, in 61° 26', a west Moon at 6^h, at *Churchill*, in 59°, a W. N. W. Moon at 7^h 30', and at *Port Nelson*, in 57°, a N. W. Moon at 9^h. So that it is six Points of the Compass, or 4^h 30', later, flowing at *Port Nelson*, than at *Whale-Cove*; yet both are nearly the

the same Distance from *Cape Digg's*, where the Tide enters the Bay.

By Captain *Middleton's* Journal a West Moon makes high Water at *Marble-Island*, at the Entrance of *Wager Strait*; as also in *Savage Sound*, and *Deer Sound*, many Leagues within the Strait; so that the Tide flows later at *Marble-Island*, and *Wager Strait*, by an Hour and half, than at *Whale-Cove*, tho' they are both nearer to *Hudson's Strait* than *Whale-Cove*; and therefore ought to be earlier if caus'd by our Eastern Tide.

The Tides flowing at the same Time at *Marble-Island* and *Wager Strait* is a Confirmation of the Tide's flowing thro' those broken Lands and Islands to the Westward; they being much at the same Distance from the Western Ocean; but as the Tide is later than at *Whale Cove*, consequently *Whale Cove* is nearer to that Ocean, and seems to be the largest and best Opening by *Pistol Bay*.

The Number of large black Whales which are constantly seen and taken in Summer, among all the broken Grounds on the North-west of the Bay, is an additional Proof of a Communication with the Western Ocean there: For since all our Whales go, in the Beginning of Winter, from *Spitzberg* and *Davy's Strait*, to warm Latitudes in our *Atlantic Ocean*, even as far as *Bermudas*, and return, in the Beginning of Summer, to *Spitzberg* and *Davy's Straits*; so, for the same Reason, the Whales seen in the North-west of *Hudson's Bay*, must have a Way of coming from, and returning to an Ocean, and going to warm Latitudes in the Winter. Now it is allowed by all, that there are great Numbers in the North-west of the Bay; many every Year being caught there by the *Eskimaux Indians*, and these bring

bring their Finn and Oil to *Whale Cove*, to sell to the Company's Sloops sent there from the Westward, South-westward, and North-westward; and consequently these Whales are caught much farther to the Westward. And since none have been seen in any other Part of the Bay, nor in *Hudson's Strait*, except within twenty Leagues of its Entrance, they cannot possibly be supposed to come from our Ocean to the North-west Side of the Bay.

Captain *Middleton*, to avoid the Force of this Reasoning about the Whales, and the Height and Time of the Tides there, has endeavoured to impose a Strait upon the Public, in $66^{\circ} 40'$, in *Repulse Bay*, which runs into *Hudson's Strait* near *Cape Comfort*. This he makes to be five or six Leagues wide, eighteen to twenty Leagues long, yet fast frozen over from Side to Side, and would not be broken up the Season he was there; yet through this frozen Strait he would bring all the Whales seen in *Wager Strait*, *Whalebone Point*, near *Marble Island*, *Whale Cove*, &c. and also Water sufficient to raise the whole Tides on all the North-west Side of the Bay, although he allows the Strait to be frozen over, and full of large and small Islands. Besides, though he says the Tide there was three Hours earlier than it really was, from the Evidence of others a-board him, yet, by his own Account, it is later here than at *Whale Cove*, and consequently could not raise a Tide there, for then the Effect must be earlier than the Cause. He then finding it impracticable to bring the Whales this Way, would insinuate that they come from *Davy's Strait* and *Baffin's Bay*, and so round to some Inlet he supposes may be to North-west of *Wager Strait*. But how Whales from our Ocean, which have little enough Time to get up into *Baffin's Bay*, to the La-
titude

titude of 78° , by the Middle of *July*, and afterwards to return to the Southward in Autumn, could take so long a Route as to go round again to the North-west of *Wager Strait*, and down to *Whale-Cove* in 62° from 78° , through a Sea full of Ice, as is the West Side of *Baffin's Bay*, and yet be there so early as *June*, (for in the Beginning of *July* they trade with the *Indians* for Whale-Fin taken fresh the same Summer) is not to be conceived. And if only such a Passage should communicate with the North-west of the Bay, and no Passage from a Southerly Ocean, would not such a Passage, from such Northerly cold Latitudes as to 78° , cause a vast Quantity of Ice to be thrown that Way into the Bay. But since no Ice is seen there at that Season, it is a corroborating Proof that the Communication there is between the Bay and a Southerly Ocean, and not with a Northerly Ocean; and the Current from this Ocean setting the Ice constantly South-easterly, from that Coast, adds to all the other Proofs, and confirms the whole. The *Eskimaux Indians* not daring to go to the Continent, yet frequenting all this Coast to Westward, shews that the whole is Islands; and all the Northern *Indians* coming to *Churchill*, who have been any Way to the Westward, give an Account of a Sea West of *Churchill* in the same Latitude, where they have seen Vessels, and traded with them, having brought Copper and other Things to *Churchill*, they had barter'd with them there. Besides, if Admiral *de Fantes's* Letter be genuine, of his Meeting in his Boat a *Boston* Vessel trading beyond the West of *Hudson's Bay*, after leaving his Ship in *Lake Belle*, upon sailing from *Lima* round *California*, to 54° North Latitude, wherein he names the Master's

fter's Name and Pilot's, *Shapley* and *Seymour Gibbons*, (and we find a Family of the Name of *Shapley* then lived at *Boston*) there would be no further Need of Proof to demonstrate there being a navigable Passage from *Hudson's Bay* to the Western Ocean of *America*.

F I N I S .



